

COUNCIL AGENDA: 3/28/06

ITEM NO.: 3.7



Memorandum

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council

FROM: Councilmembers Linda J. LeZotte and Judy Chico

SUBJECT: Resolution of Support for the Go Green Initiative

DATE: March 23, 2006

Approved

Date

Judy Chico

03.23.06

Recommendation

We recommend that the City Council pass a resolution in support of the Go Green Initiative as a means of encouraging our communities to become more environmentally aware by providing our schools with the tools they need to partner with students, parents, teachers and school leaders to promote environmental stewardship to our children.

Background

The Go Green Initiative was first established in 2002 by Jill Buck. Since then the Go Green Initiative has become a national effort with a grassroots character. The Go Green Initiative provides interested communities with a flexible framework for introducing and maintaining green practices in their neighborhood schools. This framework has been designed so that it can be formatted to fit the needs and abilities of any school. Additionally, the Go Green Initiative supplies a wide variety of informational resources and tools to partnering schools.

Currently, the Go Green Initiative has been adopted by 235 schools in 13 states across the U.S. These schools have been able to dramatically alter their diversion rates through a number of methods that involve students, parents, faculty, and school leaders. With only 54 schools reporting diversion results, the Go Green Initiative has helped to save 8,592 trees, divert 32,845 pounds of mixed recyclables from entering landfills, recycle 715,765 pounds of paper, and prevented the emission of 279 metric tons of greenhouse gases.

Over the past year, a number of roundtable discussions have been held on the most effective way to introduce the Go Green Initiative to San José. Councilmember Chirco and I have been invited to attend these meetings and anticipate that a resolution of support from the San José City Council will encourage the development of the Go Green Initiative in San José schools.

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San Jose City Clerk

RESOLUTION NO. _____

**A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SAN
JOSE IN SUPPORT OF THE GO GREEN INITIATIVE**

WHEREAS, the Go Green Initiative was established in 2002 in Pleasanton, California after founder Jill Buck was inspired to create a framework that would encourage schools to adopt green practices, such as increased recycling, composting, and energy reduction; and

WHEREAS, the Go Green Initiative provides the necessary resources and a flexible framework schools need to prioritize sustainability and encourage green practices; and

WHEREAS, since its inception, the Go Green Initiative has been successfully adopted in schools across the nation through the collaborative effort of parents, students, teachers, school administrators and staff who have realized the importance of working together for the purpose of sustainability and are using their local schools to begin educating their community on green practices; and

WHEREAS, the Go Green Initiative has produced tremendous results in the 235 schools in 13 states where the Go Green framework has been adopted and in only 54 of these schools 8,592 trees have been saved, 32,845 pounds of mixed recyclables were diverted from entering landfills, 715,765 pounds of paper have been recycled, and these schools prevented the emission of 279 metric tons of greenhouse gases; and

WHEREAS, the Go Green Initiative has become a national leader in developing environmental stewards among our children and in our communities who have dedicated themselves to ensuring that our children will have a future that is both healthy and sustainable;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SAN JOSE:

That the City of San Jose supports the Go Green Initiative in providing our schools with the tools they need to partner with students, parents, teachers, and school leaders to establish models of sustainability in our community.

ADOPTED this ____ day of _____, 2006, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

DISQUALIFIED:

RON GONZALES
Mayor

ATTEST:

LEE PRICE, MMC
City Clerk